

What is claimed is:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS  
ADD 4117

1. A system including a portable identification medium, especially in a form of a card, and a control unit with which information which is encoded on the identification medium can be read, the control unit allowing a user to access the system once the identity of the identification medium has been established,  
 wherein the identification medium (1) has an element (4) for generating a reproducible acoustic signal in a mechanical manner, the frequency spectrum of the signal encoding the information.
2. The system as recited in Claim 1,  
 wherein the control unit features a microphone via which the acoustic signal can be fed to an arithmetic unit, the arithmetic unit carrying out the identification of the signal.
3. The system as recited in Claim 1 or 2,  
 wherein the identification medium is a card (1), in particular made of plastic and, in particular in the dimensions of a credit card.
4. The system as recited in one of the preceding Claims,  
 wherein the identification medium (1) constitutes a membrane body or a resonator.
5. The system as recited in one of the preceding Claims,  
 wherein a code, in particular an acoustic PIN code can be entered into the control unit.
6. An identification medium, in particular for use in a system according to Claims 1 through 5,  
 characterized by a means (4) which emits a reproducible acoustic signal when mechanically acted upon by the user (5).

7. The identification medium as recited in Claim 6, wherein the means features a tongue (7), a plate and/or a curved surface (4) which can be folded while overcoming an initial resistance, the folding generating a clacking noise which contains the code, and the tongue (7), the plate or the surface (4) springing back to their original position subsequent to being acted upon.
8. The identification medium as recited in Claim 7, wherein the encoding is effected by the individual shaping of the tongue (7), of the plate, or of the surface (4).
9. The identification medium as recited in Claims 6 through 8, wherein the encoding is effected by the individual shaping of the membrane body or of the resonator.
10. The identification medium as recited in Claims 6 through 9, wherein the tongue (7), the plate or the surface (4) is integrally formed on the identification medium which is designed as a card.
11. The identification medium as recited in Claims 6 through 10, wherein the encoding can be carried out by the user himself/herself according to given possible methods.